

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 TRSE-00 /069 W

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FM AMCONSUL BELFAST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1614

INFO AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USNAVCOMMSTA LONDONDERRY

UNCLAS BELFAST 095

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, UK, EI

SUBJECT: DEVOLVED GOVERNMENT IS UNIONIST PRICE FOR
SUPPORT AT WESTMINSTER

1. JAMES MOLYNEAUX, LEADER OF EIGHT UNITED ULSTER UNIONIST COALITION (UUUC) MEMBERS IN PARLIAMENT, WILL MEET PRIME MINISTER CALLAGHAN IN LONDON TODAY TO DISCUSS PRICE OF ULSTER VOTES IN COMMONS VOTE OF CONFIDENCE MARCH 23. OFFICIAL UNIONIST LEADER HARRY WEST HAS MADE IT CLEAR THAT THE PRICE IS GOVERNMENT ACCEPTANCE OF THE MAJORITY REPORT ON THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION - IN EFFECT, RETURN OF STORMONT WITH MAJORITY RULE PRINCIPLE DETERMINING SEATS IN CABINET. MR. WEST REPORTING ON WEEKEND MEETING OF OFFICIAL UNIONIST PARTY EXECUTIVE MARCH 21 MADE IT CLEAR THAT "ADMINISTRATIVE DEVOLUTION" (A SECOND TIER OF REGIONAL COUNCILS) AND AN INCREASE IN ULSTER REPRESENTATION AT WESTMINSTER (BOTH APPARENTLY ALREADY OFFERED) WERE NOT ENOUGH. HE SAID THAT IN ABSENCE BINDING OFFER OF LEGISLATIVE DEVOLUTION, UUUC MEMBERS WOULD VOTE AGAINST GOVERNMENT. WEST ALSO EXPRESSED HOPE AND BELIEF ENOCH POWELL WOULD FOLLOW WHIP AND STATED FLATLY POWELL WOULD BE IN TROUBLE IN HIS
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CONSTITUENCY IF HE DID NOT. IN RADIO INTERVIEW MARCH 20 FORMER NORTHERN IRELAND SECRETARY MERLYN REES SAID THAT LABOUR WOULD NOT AGREE TO IMPLEMENTATION CONVENTION REPORT.

2. MR. MOLYNEAUX IS ALSO TO SEE AIREY NEAVE BUT LOCAL SPECULATION IS THAT CONSERVATIVES WILL NOT RPT NOT AGREE TO RETURN OF STORMONT IN TRADE FOR ULSTER SUPPORT. THERE IS

REPORT THAT AT ONE TIME IN PAST WILLIAM WHITELOW THREATENED TO RESIGN FROM PARTY IF CONSERVATIVES AGREED TO ULSTER GOVERNMENT BEING FORMED ON OTHER THAN POWER-SHARING BASIS.

3. SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC AND LABOUR PARTY (SDLP) MP GERRY FITT IS EXPECTED TO VOTE FOR GOVERNMENT AND PRESS REPORTS THAT INDEPENDENT REPUBLICAN FRANK MAGUIRE HAS RECEIVED PHONE CALL FROM MERLYN REES AND HAS AGREED TO SHOW UP AT WESTMINSTER AND SUPPORT GOVERNMENT. TWO INDEPENDENT UNIONISTS WILLIAM CRAIG AND JAMES KILFEDDER ARE EXPECTED TO FOLLOW UUUC LEAD. KILFEDDER' S POLITICAL CAREER MIGHT SURVIVE AN INDEPENDENT STANCE BUT CRAIG' S COULD NOT. SECURITY SITUATION IN PROVINCE AND UNIONIST/LOYALIST DISSATISFACTION WITH GOVERNMENT POLICY ON SECURITY ARE ALSO MAJOR ELEMENTS UNITING UNIONIST MP'S AGAINST LABOUR GOVERNMENT. UUUC IS CONFIDENT THAT IT CAN GAIN THOSE SEATS NOW HELD BY MAGUIRE AND CRAIG IN GENERAL ELECTION.

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Message Attributes

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Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
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